

Army Admits Aide Used as Civil Spy

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WASHINGTON — (CST) — The Army admitted yesterday that a military intelligence agent was used as a private detective in 1969 and that the case was covered up by Army officials.

The Army said two officers have been disciplined. It declined to identify them.

Sgt. Dennis Flannery was ordered at the 771st Military Intelligence Detachment in Puerto Rico to investigate a Western Union messenger who had no connection with the military.

Flannery was told by a Western Union official that

the investigation was ordered because an officer at the 771st and another Western Union official were "drinking buddies."

Western Union wanted to fire the messenger and, on the basis of information gathered by the agent from supposedly confidential bank and police records, did dismiss him.

According to documents filed with the Army and with the Senate Constitutional Rights Subcommittee, Flannery

complained twice about the case to the U.S. Army Intelligence Command at Fort Holabird, Md.

The second time, a colonel at Holabird ordered him to keep quiet about the case or face possible prosecution for espionage, the documents show.

When Flannery was released from service last September, according to the documents, he complained again through other army channels.